

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00271 010743Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SNM-05 SP-02 INR-10

NSC-05 CIAE-00 /062 W

-----071958 011400Z /53-S

R 010450Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9060

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0271

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR LA VM CB TH SW BM MY

SUBJECT: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH SWEDISH AMBASSADOR

REF: BANGKOK 5757

1. SWEDISH AMBASSADOR OBERG AND SWEDISH NARCOTICS ATTACHE LEWIN CAME TO SEE US FEBRUARY 28. I SPOKE WITH OBERG, AND OUR NARCOTICS COORDINATOR SPOKE WITH LEWIN (SEPTEL).

2. OBERG ASKED FOR A GENERAL RUNDOWN ON THE LAO SITUATION. I BRIEFED HIM ON THE DROUGHT, THE LAO EMERGENCY AID REQUEST, THE SECURITY SITUATION, AND LAOS' RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. I TOLD HIM I HAD HEARD THAT PEKING HAD CLOSED ITS CONSULATE GENERAL IN PHONG SALY. OBERG SAID THAT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NOUPHAN HAD BEEN QUITE FRANK IN TELLING HIM THAT THE LPDR HAD SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEMS. OBERG SEEMED UNAWARE OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00271 010743Z

RECENT IMPROVEMENT IN LAO-THAI RELATIOVS, BUT AGREED THAT IT WAS AN EMINENTLY SENSIBLE POLICY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

3. OBERG AGREED WITH MY OBSERVATION THAT LAO SECURITY PROBLEMS DID NOT BODE WELL FOR LAO-U.S. RELATIONS. AS A RESULT OF KRIANGSAK'S AND THE LPDR'S POLICY, THE LAO

HAD NOT MADE USE OF THE THAI BUGABOO OVER THE LAST TWO MONTHS OR SO. THE LPDR WOULD THUS EITHER HAVE TO BLAME ITSELF FOR ITS PROBLEMS OR BLAME AN OUTSIDE AGENCY SUCH AS THE U.S. IT WAS NOT HARD TO PREDICT WHICH COURSE OF ACTION THE LAO WOULD CHOOSE.

4. OBERG ASKED FOR MY VIEWS OF LONG TERM VIETNAMESE OBJECTIVES IN INDOCHINA. I SAID THAT HANOI WANTED FRIENDLY, SECURE BORDERS, BUT SINCE THIS POLICY RAN SO MUCH AGAINST THE ETHNIC, LINGUISTIC, AND CULTURAL GRAIN OF THEIR NEIGHBORS, THIS WHOLLY UNDERSTANDABLE VIETNAMESE OBJECTIVE COULD NOT HELP BUT PRODUCE FRICTION WITH THE LAO AND THE CAMBODIANS. OBERG SAID HE AGREED AND SAID THAT SWEDEN BELIEVED THAT THE BEST ASSURANCE OF STABILITY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD WAS TO SUPPORT THE INDEPENDENCE OF SMALL COUNTRIES SUCH AS LAOS. HE WAS THEREFORE VERY HOPEFUL FOR PEACE IN THE REGION. I POINTED OUT THAT I AND MANY OF MY DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES IN VIENTIANE WERE NOT PARTICULARLY HOPEFUL SINCE THERE SEEMED TO BE SUCH A BASIC DISHARMONY BETWEEN VIETNAMESE OBJECTIVES ON THE ONE HAND AND THE GENUINE INDEPENDENCE OF HANOI'S NEIGHBORS ON THE OTHER. OBERG IMMEDIATELY SWITCHED HIS GROUND AND PICKED UP MY OWN PHRASE (WHICH I IN TURN HAVE BORROWED FROM A THIRD WORLD COLLEAGUE) THAT THE GAME IN INDOCHINA WAS BY NO MEANS OVER.

ROBERTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 00271 010743Z

NOTE BY OCT: DISTRIBUTION PER MR. ROBINSON, SSO.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, AMBASSADORS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VIENTI00271
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780093-0967
Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803117/aaaadvpt.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 35f13dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BANGKOK 5757
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3147736
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH SWEDISH AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PEPR, LA, VM, CB, TH, SW, BM, MY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/35f13dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014